



NASA Parental Consent for Anti-Nausea Medication

Information and Forms Required for Program Flight-Crew Participants Under Age 18

Dear Parent of a prospective NASA Reduced Gravity Program Student Flyer:

As your child prepares for his/her flight aboard NASA's KC-135A reduced gravity aircraft, one of the issues to be considered is the possibility that he/she will become nauseated during the flight. The demanding environment of the "K-Bird" can, in some individuals, trigger the "vomit reflex" due to the roller-coaster-like trajectory it flies.

Years of experience at NASA have shown that a certain anti-nausea compound called Scop-Dex (a controlled substance not available commercially) may have a beneficial effect in some people in preventing the vomit reflex. Scop-Dex is available to your child on a prescription basis requiring parental consent. Below is additional information about Scop-Dex and a Consent Form for you to sign if you decide to grant your permission for your child to take it.

We strongly recommend that, before you decide whether to grant permission, you discuss the issue with your child's personal physician. And, we suggest that you take this document with you when you do so, since the doctor is not likely to be familiar with Scop-Dex as a compound.

Details About the Anti-Nausea Medication Scop-Dex

1. Scop-Dex is a combination of Scopolamine (0.4mg) and Dexedrine (5 MG), combined in a gel capsule.
 2. At NASA, a small amount of each is placed in a gelatin capsule and given to passengers aboard the KC-135 aircraft, but on strictly voluntary basis. It is not a requirement for flight.
 3. The combination of medicines has been used at NASA for more than 30 years with almost no adverse effects. The most common side effect is a dry mouth but this does not last very long.
 4. This combination of medicines is used in an attempt to avoid motion sickness in the airplane.
 5. The problem usually manifests itself by causing nausea and vomiting in about 20% of passengers.
 6. Almost no other symptoms occur.
 7. The usual procedure is to give the medicine one hour prior to flight. The effect lasts, usually, for 4 to 6 hours but, in some cases, the medication remains effective for up to 12 hours – but this is very rare.
 8. After the medication "wears off", the only after effect is usually some fatigue. In almost all cases, the medication's effect is gone in a few hours after the flight and the passenger is "back to normal".
 9. It is estimated that more than 50,000 doses have been given to passengers on the KC-135 with almost no adverse effects.
 10. We at NASA consider this to be a safe, effective medication.
 11. It is believed these medications inhibit vestibular inputs to the central nervous system thereby preventing, in many cases, the vomiting reflex. It also has a direct action on the vomiting center in the brain stem.
 12. Side effects are possible but not probable in most people. The most common side effects reported are:
 - Drowsiness
 - Overstimulation
 - Dryness of the mouth
 - Headache
 13. Precautions:
 - Check with your Physician before taking Scop-Dex with any other medication.
 - Since you may perspire less after taking Scop-Dex, avoid heat and vigorous exercise.
 - DO NOT drink any alcohol while taking Scop-Dex.
 - If you experience confusion, restlessness, disorientation, hallucinations, or any other adverse effect report these to your doctor immediately.
 14. For additional information about Scop-Dex, please call Mike Fox or Javier Roque at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Their telephone number is 281/283-5724.
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NASA REDUCED GRAVITY STUDENT FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

NASA Parental Consent for Anti-Nausea Medication

Information and Forms Required for
Program Flight-Crew Participants Under Age 18

PARENTAL CONSENT: Anti-Nausea Medication (Scop-Dex)

I, _____, am the parent/guardian of
(Name of Parent/Guardian – *please print neatly*)

_____, who is a prospective flyer
(Name of Student – *please print neatly*)

in the NASA Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program and who attends

_____, I do hereby give my
(Name of Institution)

permission for him/her to take the anti-nausea medication Scopolomine-Dexedrine (“Scop-Dex”) in conjunction with flying on NASA’s KC-135A reduced gravity aircraft.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)